

WELCOME, VERDA F. <sup>Wemen</sup> (MRS. HENRY C.)

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## She Always Has Escort---Armed

### Police Have Served On 'Welcome Detail' Ever Since Assassination Attempt

For eight months and nine days State Senator Verda Welcome has had a constant companion—a uniformed, armed city policeman.

Wherever she goes in Baltimore—to the hairdresser, a dinner party, a political meeting, even on a Christmas shopping tour—her vigilant escort is with her.

A policeman is parked outside her Liberty Heights avenue home when she sleeps at night, ready to foil another assassination attempt if it should come. **Sun**

It was on April 10 that five shots were fired at her as she prepared to get out of her automobile. Fortunately, she was merely pinked.

#### Wants Freedom But...

From that day on, Senator Welcome, a Fourth Legislative district Democrat, has been guarded around the clock, through a series of trials growing out of that—and an earlier—moment of violence.

How does it feel?

"The Lord knows, I'd like to be free," Senator Welcome said yesterday. **DEC 19 1964**

"But how would I feel if I were free? I just don't know. Would I be able to face the streets alone again? I'm not sure I would at this point."

Mrs. Welcome said she has asked police officials time and again if they believe it is necessary to maintain a watch on her.

"They just nod and say, 'We know more than you know,' and the bodyguards keep coming," she related.

Mrs. Welcome, first Negro of her sex to sit in the Maryland Senate, said she believes that "the person or persons behind the shooting have not been apprehended."

"It was the product of a de-



**STILL UNDER GUARD**—Patrolman Ernest T. Kraft stands guard as Senator Verda Welcome (D., Fourth) enters automobile. She has been under guard since attempts were made on her life March 26 and April 10. She was wounded April 10.

ranged mind — a mind that has not been cured," she went on, adding: **DEC 19 1964**

"I wish I could say I'm in no danger. But..."

To date, 46 different policemen have been on the "Welcome detail."

"Everyone of them has been fine and decent and understanding," she said.

By now her friends have become accustomed to Mrs. Welcome's uniformed escorts.

"They make them feel right at home when we go to their houses," she explained.

As for her husband: **Sun**

"He's one of the most wonderful guys in the world about this."

Nevertheless, Mrs. Welcome said over and over as she talked about her strange way of living:

"When and where does it all end?"

"When am I going to be free again?"